
POLICY

Residential juvenile justice facilities must implement and maintain a progressive discipline response system to address the inappropriate behaviors of each youth in the facility.

PURPOSE

To ensure each youth is treated fairly under a consistent system of discipline focused on encouraging appropriate behaviors, discouraging inappropriate behaviors and teaching new behaviors.

DEFINITIONS

See [JRG, JJ Residential Glossary](#).

**RESPONSIBLE
STAFF**

Facility director and direct care staff.

PROCEDURE

Each residential juvenile justice facility must develop and implement a written procedure for its discipline response system. This procedure must contain the following requirements:

**System
Description**

The discipline system description must:

- Describe how staff responds to inappropriate youth behavior through a continuum of response. The response continuum includes but is not limited to all of the following:
 - Teaching interventions; see [JRM 600](#).
 - Positive behavior supports; see [JRM 601](#).
 - De-escalation strategies including those in approved physical restraint curricula.
 - Mechanical restraint; see [JRM 620](#).
 - Behavior management rooms; see [JRM 631](#).
 - Due process; see [JRM 631](#).

- Restorative activities; see [JRM 640](#). Require that staff use the least restrictive intervention necessary to initiate a change in the youth's undesirable behavior.
- Include provisions for the exercise of due process; see [JRM 631](#).
- Include the use of a teaching intervention and/or restorative activity following the culmination of the discipline activity to facilitate reintegration into the treatment program.
- Require documentation of all behavior response interventions excluding teacher interventions and positive behavior supports; see [JRM 600](#) and [JRM 601](#).

Criteria-Choosing an Intervention

Staff must always use the least restrictive disciplinary intervention.

Staff may never use any of the following:

- Corporal punishment inflicted in any manner. Corporal punishment includes, but is not limited to striking, hog-tying, beating, slapping and spanking. Corporal punishment also includes forced exercise and forced immobilization such as forcing a youth to stand at attention for prolonged periods of time. Calisthenics conducted as part of a facility-approved physical education program are not included in this restriction.
- Threat of corporal punishment.
- Discipline of a group for the misbehavior of an individual group member.
- Verbal abuse, ridicule, demeaning or degrading language or actions intended to humiliate. Use of profanity or slurs based on offense, race, ethnicity, gender, religion or sexual orientation.
- Denial of any essential program services.
- Withholding of food or water or creating special menus or meal presentations for behavior management or discipline purposes.
- Denial of visits and communications with family, including mail.

- Denial of the opportunity for at least eight hours of sleep in a 24-hour period.
- Denial of shelter, clothing or essential personal needs.

Staff must never allow another youth or volunteer to discipline another youth.

Staff must never discipline any youth as a means of retaliation or reprisal.

Any discipline or actions perceived as discipline may be the subject of a grievance.

Documentation

Staff must document training for each youth in the discipline system as part of youth orientation.

Distribution

As part of facility admission, the facility must send a copy of this policy and the facility discipline procedure to the youth's parents/guardian, the youth's juvenile justice specialist and, where appropriate, the youth's probation officer and/or care management organization caseworker.

LEGAL BASIS

Public Health Code, 1978 PA 368, as amended, MCL 333.16101 et seq.

Social Welfare Act, 1939 PA 280, as amended, MCL 400.115a(1)(l).

Child Caring Institutions Rules, R400.4137, R400.4150, R400.4152